



I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to:  
MS AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: December 21, 2005 Signature: Michael J. Doherty  
(Michael J. Doherty)

**EXPEDITED PROCEDURE**

Group Art Unit: 3738

Docket No.: SPINE 3.0-448 CONT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: :  
Ralph et al. :  
Application No.: 10/783,292 : Group Art Unit: 3738  
: :  
Filed: February 18, 2004 : Examiner: B. E.  
: Pellegrino  
: :  
For: INTERVERTEBRAL SPACER DEVICE :  
HAVING A RADIALLY THINNING :  
BELLEVILLE SPRING :  
\_\_\_\_\_

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116**

MS AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The present Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action dated July 1, 2005, in the above-identified application.

to Enter  
Bp 1/5/06  
OK